

Economic Power Is the Touchstone of Labor's Success

By President Gompers in American Federationist.

The one thing which employers fear in labor organizations is power. Power is necessary to make these organizations effective. Some employers have officially endorsed labor organizations of the "proper kind." Of course the proper kind in their estimation is the carefully expurgated edition from which all evidences of power have been carefully repressed. Such institutions would be labor organizations in name only.

Only where organizations have power do they have effectiveness in bringing betterment into the lives of their members. Power can not exist unless there exist the sinews and munitions for sustained insistence upon demands and rights. The power of an organization is related in a very vital sense to membership and to the dues paid into the union treasury.

Those organizations which are vigorous and powerful to promote the well-being of their members are invariably those organizations which have established high dues. Union funds constitute a kind of insurance for those who constitute them. Considered from a business viewpoint there is no investment that will give so high a rate of return as union dues.

When the resources of an organization are ample, wage movements may be undertaken with a spirit of confidence and independence that has a helpful reaction upon recalcitrant employers.

Resources facilitate the extension of organization, which in turn increases the power of the organization through

increasing solidarity. Union resources put confidence into the unorganized to incur risks resulting from enlistment in the ranks of the organized. Union resources protect the workers from wage reductions and poorer conditions of work because the power of self-defense constitutes a real argument against injury or provocation of contest.

A low-dues paying policy is not a profitable or a wise policy for organized labor. Indeed it would be good business sense to increase dues with every wage increase—the wage increase was due to organization, and stronger organization will in turn bring other wage increases.

As union dues are increased more benefits can be made increasingly helpful and can be extended in variety. These benefits can be managed by the organizations more cheaply and more satisfactorily than similar insurance can be furnished by State or private agencies. Assuring the unions' control over these benefits removes all doubt of such assistance in industrial disputes.

Labor organizations embody an ideal but that ideal must rest upon a practical basis if the ideal is to become reality. The practical resources to make any ideal reality depend in some degree upon the financial resources at command. The question of higher dues is one of fundamental importance to all workers. It is a matter that must not be pushed aside. It is a matter that should be given most careful and wise consideration. It is a fundamental matter because the dues paid, in a large measure, determine the power which the organization exercises for the cause of human welfare.

The John Street Association

President Johnsing Compliments Liquor Commissioner Johnson In His Efforts to Give Colored People Plenty Of Gin Parlors.

Dis here am jes two days befo' Crismas en it am not de tention ob de president ob dis socation fer to kumplain bout de goings on in de town. De people hab com to be kustomer to takin life jes as it gits to em, en dar ain't no use ob me talkin de members into no other way ob thinkin, cause dey am not gwine to stick to nothin. With these remarks by President Johnsing of the John Street Business, Mutual Benefit, Welfare and General Do-Your-Neighbor-Good Association was called to order Thursday evening.

Dar ain't no reason fer me to splain to de members whar Ah was en why dar want no meetin ob de socation has week. Ah jes nachly done jes like eny ob yo niggers am libe to do, continued Mr. Johnsing, en Ah has no poligise to make. Things am happinin while de niggers sleep en dats all dar is to it.

Ah has jes got in mah mine a few things what Ah has got to call to yo tention tonight en mong de mos portant is de subject ob sloons in dis district ob de town. Ah notices dat dis guvner Willis is butin in on de sloons ob dis town, speshully es it am consarnin de district in which de niggers am sposed to reside. Ah sees in de paper whar he don say dar am too meny sloons in dis district en dat he don cal dis Mister Johnsing to come clean up to Clumbus fer to talk de matter ober. Dis am a matah ob portance to de members en nus hab speshul tention. Dis here Mister Willis when he was down here two yers ago axin fer de votes ob de niggers, clared hiself a friend ob de niggers en say he not git in de way ob de niggers habbin er good time. Now Ah wants to call speshul tention to de fact dat we has jes got de Dunbar Club goin ergin when dis Mister Brosey, who is er friend ob de niggers ob dis district, axes fer er permit fer to open up er sloon whar his friends kin git er drink when dey want it, en right on top ob dis de govner done hab Mister Johnsing up on de carpet en tel him dey is letin de niggers hab too meny sloons. Dey done ax Mister Johnsing what he gwine do, ef somebody ax fer er permit

fer to run er sloon in de Silber Moon, en while dat ain't got no direck intrust to de niggers ob dis district, it does hab a ginerel baring on de situashon. Dis Mister Johnsing pears to no his bisnes en he jes nachly done tole de guvner dat ef he see de right man wantin to do biznes down dar he gwine to gib him er lisens fer to do it. Ef he ain't er nigger, dis Mister Johnsing shore acks jes lak one, en he sho do kno how to talk to de govner.

Dar is a under subjek what Ah deems portant to de colored people en what shows da ain't no jestis in dis town fer niggers. Dey ain't been but jes one place in dat part ob de city what dey call Avondale whar a nigger kin walk up to de bar en git er drink, en dey has done tuk in en shet dat up. It am er shame dat a respectable colored geman kant go no whar in dat part ob de city en ack lak er man when he wants to git er drink. Ah am talkin bout de fact dat Mister Wilhelmy who has been kunkucktin er sloon out dar at de end ob Reading road has had his lisense took erway funn him. Dis Mister Wilhelmy has alers been er fren ob de niggers en Ah poses dat dis socation dopt resolutins dorsin Mister Wilhelmy in his posal to plant er lot ob niggers long side dem big white folks on Rose Hill. Dis pears to be er bout de only way fer him to git jestis en dey is plenty ob niggers in de kermunity as will be mighty glad to crowd on dem street kars in de mornin en make dese big white folks stan up. Ef de white folks ain't gwine to low de niggers to git er drink in dat part ob de town den it am time fer de niggers to git right in behind Mister Wilhelmy en do what dey kin fer to show de white folks de error ob deir ways.

Brother J. Paul Jones here asked de president as to the status of de landin rock pile as proposed by Rev. White of the Charities Board and received the following explanation from the chair: "Shet yo mouf, nigger, en set down. Ef you doan behav yosef yo larn all er bout dat dar rock pile befo Crismas. Dis metin am now jurned tel de nex metin."

No News in Machinists' Strike

Officials of the machinists' union report conditions unchanged during the week and say there will likely be no change until after January 1st. There have been no new strikes during the week and no defections from the ranks of the strikers. Little or no change is anticipated until after the holidays, as both employers and employees are willing to celebrate and take a short rest.

RETAIL CLERKS ORGANIZING.

Rochester, N. Y.—Retail Clerks' Union is conducting an organizing campaign which will be continued through the winter months.

AGREE TO OVERTIME.

Springfield, Mass.—The Knox Motors Company has agreed to pay for overtime, and their striking employees have returned to work.

Had Heard of Him.

The stranger within the gates was walking along one of England's magnificent highways when he encountered a stupid looking rustic; but, being in doubt as to his direction, he decided to question the fellow.

"Am I on the right road to Stratford, Shakespeare's town, you know? You've heard of him?"

"E. Be you he?"

A GOOD SELECTION

Steam-fitters' Local No. 392 has elected Philip Fischer to succeed himself as business agent of the local for the coming year and the members are to be congratulated. No man could have been



PHILIP FISCHER

Business Agent Steamfitters U. A. Local No. 392

selected who would be better equipped for this important office and the interests of the steam-fitters will continue to receive the undivided attention of this earnest and sincere worker.

During his term of office Mr. Fischer has accomplished much for the uplift of his fellows and the order is now in a stronger position than ever before in this city. Mr. Fischer is vice-president of the Building Trades Council and one of the most popular labor officials in Cincinnati.

WILL DEMAND EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Four Railroad Brotherhoods to Vote Upon Demands.

Chicago, Ill.—Presidents of the four brotherhoods of railway trainmen started to work today preparing the ballot that is to be sent to the 400,000 employees of the 438 railroads in the United States asking their approval of these demands:

An eight hour day, with the same wages now paid for working ten hours. Time and one-half for working overtime.

These demands, completed here last night by officials of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, Order of Railroad Conductors, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, will be mailed to every member of the four organizations on January 1, it was announced. They will be given sixty days in which to vote and return their ballots. After all ballots have been returned, officials of the four organizations will meet in Chicago, probably in April, to agree on a date for presenting the result of the vote to the railroads.

R. R. WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Cincinnati, O.—Big Four Railroad telegraphers have raised wages 6 per cent as a result of compromises agreed to between their representatives and the company.

STATE UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Louisville, Ky.—Officers of the State Federation of Labor have issued a call for the annual convention to be held in this city, beginning Monday, January 10.

STRIKE OF FISHERS ENDS.

Boston, Mass.—The four weeks' strike of fishermen against the Bay State Fishing Company has ended with an agreement satisfactory to these workers. Hours of labor are to be reduced.

IRON MOLDERS STRIKE.

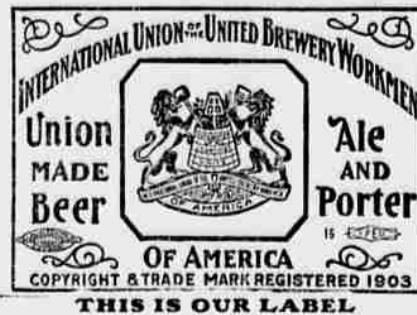
Pittsburg, Pa.—In an effort to establish the eight-hour day in this vicinity, about 1,500 iron molders are on strike.

MUST KNOW EVERYTHING.

Rochester, N. Y.—The Civil Service Commission recently held an examination for the position of "janitor in charge of steam boilers" and asked each applicant what experience he had in making repairs to boilers, engines, pumps, piping, plumbing, electric wiring, electric motor, brick work, plaster, painting, carpenter work, furniture and cabinet work.

Some members of the Steam and Operating Engineers' Union were in favor of notifying the commission that it had overlooked a few trades, but the majority of this local decided that a protest should be made against city officials wasting the people's money trying to find a 12-in-1 craftsman.

VOTE AGAINST PROHIBITION!



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